

2009 Aspiring Principal Scholarship Program

Application Brochure



Application Deadline
April 24, 2009

(Online application deadline – April 24, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. E.S.T)
(All mailed application materials must be postmarked on or before April 24, 2009.)

Table of Contents

Rationale.....	3
IPLA Two-Year Academy.....	4
IPLA Alumni Winter Conference.....	4
Scholarship Fund.....	5
Scholarship Application Process & Requirements.....	6-7

Rationale

Study after study has clearly reinforced the need for effective leadership at all levels of society, from the school house to the White House. Since the early era of the Effective Schools research, the role of the principal as a key change agent at the building level has been unchallenged. John Gardner and others have reminded us that institutions and professions, like human beings, require occasional renewal to avoid going to seed. If systemic improvement is to occur in our nation's schools, it will be largely the result of building-based leaders who possess the knowledge and skills necessary to lead others through the change process.

While many studies have been conducted which validate the significant impact these programs are having on Indiana's public schools, we know that much more needs to be done. Some time ago, the Academy worked with the Indiana Association of School Principals to explore the need for an increased pool of qualified aspiring principals. Addressing the dilemma of current educational administration programs, Paula F. Silver (1983) stated:

In the service professions...scholarship is almost exclusively of the applied research type and is conducted for purposes of developing techniques for solving particular problems encountered in practice. Practicing professionals can turn to the published literature in their respective fields and find the current knowledge about most problems they encounter because that knowledge is codified with reference to classes of practical problems. In educational administration, practitioners do not resort to the literature in the field because they know they will not find their current knowledge about how to solve the problems they are facing.

If our schools are to improve, then the preparation of those aspiring to leader roles must be significantly improved.

The Indiana Principal Leadership Academy and the IPLA Alumni Association, Inc. is fully committed to leading the way in promoting the continuous improvement of practicing and aspiring principals. To assist in the ongoing professional development of practitioners throughout the State of Indiana, the IPLA provides three unique programs: the IPLA Two-Year Academy, the IPLA Alumni Winter Conference, and the IPLA Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

IPLA Two-Year Academy

The Academy provides practicing public school principals with a professional development experience intended to blend both effective leadership and efficient management practices that are essential to school improvement. Encompassing 18 days over a two-year period, the Academy takes cohort groups of 100 principals through four critical phases of growth: Leadership, Communication, Culture, and Teaching & Learning.

Conducted in two-day increments, each academy session addresses the research-based aspect of principal leadership as well as the practical application side of principal leadership. Academy participants are guaranteed that each day will give them at least one idea for immediate back-home transfer.

Key elements of the Academy's success include:

- ❑ a balance between research and practice.
- ❑ a balance between content and process.
- ❑ extended time commitment.
- ❑ involvement of all level of the principalship.
- ❑ selection of volunteer applicants.
- ❑ action plans for back-home transfer.
- ❑ practitioner-driven sessions using peer facilitators.
- ❑ a commitment to continuous improvement of the program.
- ❑ networking opportunities.

IPLA Alumni Winter Conference

Since 1989, the IPLA Alumni Association, Inc. has provided a continuous growth experience during the month of January at its annual winter conference. At this conference, educational leaders return to update their knowledge base and practice skill enhancement in critical areas of systemic school improvement.

The IPLA Alumni Association Scholarship Fund

The IPLA Alumni Association, Inc. feels so strongly about the need to enhance the leader pool among Indiana's public schools that it has made a commitment to annually sponsor aspiring public school principals in the pursuit of the academic preparation.

Currently, the IPLA Alumni Association, Inc. provides a scholarship for aspiring principals involved in a non-traditional or traditional administrative preparation program in one of Indiana's accredited colleges or universities. This new policy was adopted in June, 2000. Each recipient may be reimbursed up to \$1250.00 of tuition, textbook purchases, or professional development experiences each school year for two successive academic school years, with the total scholarship not to exceed \$2,500.00.

Requirements for the aspiring principal scholarship are as follows:

- The candidate must be formally accepted and actively enrolled in an accredited principal preparation program in an Indiana college or university.
- The candidate must maintain a minimum 3.0 grade point average to qualify for reimbursement.
- The candidate must be employed by a public school corporation.
- The candidate must agree to assist the Indiana Principal Leadership Academy in one program area during the two-year period of the scholarship (at no cost to the candidate).
- The candidate must provide a summary of each semester's experiences to the Academy's Director consistent with guidelines established by the Indiana Principal Leadership Academy.
- The candidate must have completed at least 6 credit hours in an accredited administrative preparation program at one of Indiana's colleges or universities.
- The candidate must be available on June 25, 2009 if selected for an interview. The interviews will take place in Indianapolis, Indiana at the Indiana Department of Education.

The IPLA Alumni Association agrees to provide the aspiring principal with the following:

- Reimbursement for tuition and textbook purchases up to \$1,250.00 per academic school year for two school years, with the total scholarship not to exceed \$2,500.00.
- All reimbursements are subject to approval by the IPLA Alumni Association.
- The Academy will provide at least one growth opportunity to the aspiring principal during the two years.

Scholarship Application Process & Requirements

On-Line Requirements

The on-line portion of the application form can be found at www.doe.in.gov/ipla.

This portion of the application **MUST** be completed on-line. Please have the following information ready:

- Name, address, home telephone number, cell phone number, e-mail address, school name and address, Indiana University/campus where courses are taken, years experience in public school teaching, timeline for completion of certification
- Professional employment information
- Professional experiences & involvement
- Essay questions:
 - 1) What do you see as a major challenge facing public schools today?
 - 2) What characteristics do educational leaders need to assist students and faculty in preparing for the future?
 - 3) What prompted you to want to enter public school administration?
 - 4) Describe your long-term goals.

Submission by Mail Requirements

Please mail the following items to the address at the bottom of this page:

- A minimum of two letters of recommendation
 - *minimum of one from a practicing administrator
 - *minimum of one from a professional colleague
- Transcript of undergraduate and graduate courses taken. Photocopies are accepted.
- Any additional information which you feel may assist the committee in making its final decision.

Interview Requirements

- Not all applicants will be selected for an interview.
- Only after receiving notification of selection for an interview, each interview candidate is required to mail a 3 to 4 minute digital recording (CD, DVD or flash drive format) to the IPLA Office. In the digital recording, you must describe your leadership qualities and why you think that you will be a successful school principal.
- Each interview candidate must be available on June 25, 2009, in Indianapolis to be considered.

Mail all materials to:

Indiana Principal Leadership Academy
Alumni Aspiring Principal Scholarship
151 W. Ohio St., Room 229 State House
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Application Deadlines

Deadline for receipt of the online application: April 24, 2009 by 4:00 PM E.S.T.

All mailed application materials must be postmarked on or before April 24, 2009.

A screening committee of school leaders will review all application materials, recommendation letters, transcripts, and recordings in order to select candidates for the interview process. Interviews will be held in Indianapolis on **June 25, 2009**. **Candidates MUST be available on June 25, 2009 to be considered.** Upon completion of the interview process on June 25, 2009 in Indianapolis, the scholarship recipients will be chosen and notified by June 29, 2009. The presentation of the scholarship will be made at the 20th Annual IPLA Alumni Winter Conference, which will be held at the Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel & Suites January 25-26, 2010. Recipients should be available to attend this conference.

Reimbursement for tuition and textbooks will be dispersed each July upon receipt of expenses with receipts to the IPLA office.

Questions???

**Contact the IPLA Office by phone (317-232-9006)
or email (skertes@doe.in.gov).**